

PLEASE NOTE:

General Orders & E-Blast Emails will start coming from
mnvfw@vfwmn.us

Please put this email address in your contacts list to reduce the chance of the email being refused.



GO Email Recipient REMINDER:

GOs are now being e-mailed to the following:

- Council of Admin • State Chairmen • Finance Committee •
- Past State Commanders • All POST Official Emails •
- ALL Post Commanders & Quartermasters •
- Any other Post/District Officers Specifically Requesting them •

If you are NOT included in the above and
WANT TO RECEIVE the e-mailed GOs,
please call or email Dept. HQ with your

Full Name, Email, Post Number and Position

Change of Email Address or Mailing Address: To assure that you and all Post Officers always receive all of the important Department Communications, please be sure to promptly submit any email, home address and phone changes to Department Headquarters.

MORE....

**Full Page Bulletins in
THIS General Orders**

- **2019 MN Legislative Day on the Hill**
- **2019 VFW Priority Goals**
- Donate to the VFW
- **2019- 20 Election Report Forms**
- **State Convention Schedule**
- **Conv. AD form, Housing, Banquet**
- **Officer's Training Schedule & Registration**
- **Nat'l Convention Delegate & Housing Forms**
- **All-State CMDR Points Chart**
- **All-State QM Points Chart**
- Community Service Form
- Community Service Recordbook Contest & Form
- Poppy Order Form
- Traveling Safety Report
- Cribbage Tournament Flyer
- Veterans Data Record Sheet
- Convention Post Delegate Forms
- VFW Bowling Tournament Flyer
- 2019 Ely Fishing Trip Flyer
- Trolling for Troops Flyer
- VFW Cribbage Tournament
- Youth Activity Report Form & Chairs

March 2019

THIRD DISTRICT

Post 5771: Meeting day CHANGED to 2nd Wednesday

Post 3915: QUARTERMASTER PRO-TEMP- Tom Heinrich, 10006 Oakwood Ct N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443, 612-865-6458

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Post 7051: Meeting time CHANGED to 5:00 pm

Roster Corrections



NINTH DISTRICT

District Voice of Democracy Chairman: Richard Gabe, 25826 Cty Hwy 20, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Post 5252: Commander- Richard Gabe, 25826 Cty Hwy 20, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Post 5252: NEW QUARTERMASTER- Larry Quade, 506 S. Lake St, Frazee, MN 56544-4406, 218-841-5881

March is your last chance to order Poppy's and have them for distribution in May. We are way behind in posts ordering and total Poppy's ordered. This program is vital to our success! Please order now. We really need you to order what you have in the past and an extra 250 to give your commander maximum points for All State. If that is not possible please order at least 100. Every post needs to do that.



BUDDY POPPY

POPPY CARDS DISTRIBUTION DATES

April 19 - 28, 2019

AFTER THIS DATE CARDS MAY BE DISTRIBUTED UP
TO POPPY DAY.

~BUDDY POPPY DAY~

May 17-18, 2019

~Submitted by Barry Henriksen, Buddy Poppy Chair

**It's hard to believe that the Community Service Reporting year
is almost over!!**

**One month remaining in the year and April
will start a new year for reporting
Currently there are 77 Posts at 100%
on time reporting, keep up
the good work.**

30 days remain in this year's contest for
Community Service Record Books all Community
Service projects completed during the period
1 April 2018 to March 31, 2019 should
Be included when making your Post/Auxiliary
Record Book.

Record Books must be received by April 18, 2019.

~Submitted by Dewey Hermanson, Community Service Chair



**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES**

I attended the 1st District meeting in Austin in February and was reminded of the challenge all posts face in attaining 100% membership in any given year. A reverent and moving Memorial Service was conducted with the names of our departed comrades recited. As a Department we continue to make progress, however, time is beginning to be a factor as we strive to reach our goal of 100%.

We continue to add Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters to the eligibility roster for All-State status as their posts have reached 100% or greater.

Congratulations and thank you to the following Posts:

District 1 - Blooming Prairie 878

District 2 -Chaska 1791, Sherburn 8261

District 5 - Starbuck 4582

District 7 -Hamel 5903

District 7 continues to lead the way at 97.98% with District 1 on their heels at 97.84%. The 6th District improved to 97.60% so the race to 100% should be a good one. Your Department membership percentage is 96.44, a 1% per month increase will accomplish our goal – let's make it happen!

A lot of membership information has been disseminated including relocated veterans who have moved to Minnesota and unpaid member rosters. I encourage each post to review their annual members renewal dates and ensure those expiring in the next 90 days be personally contacted and invited to renew their membership. Sadly, we have a number of members who don't renew simply because no one asked them to – don't let that be the case this year! Congratulation to the winners of The Bag A Member contest for second quarter - Gilbert Post 4456, Minneapolis Post 217, Minneapolis Post 246, and the 2nd District.

Garrison Post 1816 won the Mid-Winter Conference National Convention Award drawing for \$1000.00 to be used by the Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander to attend the national convention in Orlando, Florida. The next drawing for \$1000.00 will be conducted at the state hockey tournament. Our hockey and baseball programs are a great opportunity to watch young athletes demonstrating the ideals and values we promote in our communities. Plan to attend the state hockey tournament in Thief River Falls March 22-24, 2019.

We're having a good year with regard to membership, I'd like to be able to call it a great year at our state convention in June. Please continue to be aggressive in your efforts to recruit, reinstate and retain!



MEMBERSHIP

~Submitted by Dale Hoogeveen, State Membership Chair



POW/ MIA

VA Releases Plan to Implement New Community Care Program: The VFW-supported VA MISSION Act of 2018, became law this past summer and established six ways veterans can access private-sector care, known as community care. The law granted VA broad authority to determine two of the six eligibility standards for the new VA Community Care Program — access and quality standards. VA worked closely with Congress and veterans organizations to draft the law, but chose to ignore its strategic partners when drafting the regulations to implement it. In a statement released Wednesday, VA publicly announced its plans to implement the access standards. “While we are glad VA has finally informed us of how it plans to implement the VA MISSION Act access standards, we are disappointed VA chose not to incorporate the voice of our 1.6 million members in the decision making process,” said VFW Executive Director Bob Wallace. “As a result, VA is repeating previous mistakes,” he said. The proposal is expected to be published in the Federal Register next week. VA proposes to give veterans the ability to use private sector care if it takes them more than 30 minutes to drive to their VA primary or mental health care appointments or if their wait times for such care are more than 20 days. Veterans who require specialty care appointments would be eligible for private sector care if they drive more than 60 minutes or if their wait time is more than 28 days. “Twenty days is just as arbitrary as 30 days,” Wallace continued, “and once again adopting TRICARE Prime Service Area standards does not serve the best interest of veterans.” The new VA Community Care Program, which will replace the Veterans Choice Program, is expected to launch June 2019. VA also released its plan to expand access to private sector urgent care clinics around the country, a move the VFW supports. However, the VFW does not agree with VA’s plans to charge veterans who receive urgent care related to a service-connected disability. Read VA’s statement. Read or comment on the urgent care proposal.

VFW Blue Water Navy Vet Wins Federal Appeals Court Ruling: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed a decade-old ruling Wednesday that potentially paves the way for the return of earned disability benefits for some 90,000 so-called Blue Water Navy veterans from the Vietnam War. The VFW-supported case, *Procopio v. Wilkie*, had VA Secretary Robert Wilkie being sued by Navy veteran Alfred Procopio, who was denied service connection for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus because he never stepped foot on dry land or served within Vietnam’s inland waterways. Procopio, a Life member of VFW Post 6587 in Spring Lake Park, Minn., was assigned aboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, which was stationed inside Vietnam’s 12-mile territorial waters. Both of his illnesses are listed among the VA’s 14 presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. The Appeals Court focused on the intent of the 1991 Agent Orange Act, which was to grant a presumption of service connection for certain diseases to veterans who “served in the Republic of Vietnam.” At issue was whether service within territorial waters constituted service “in the Republic of Vietnam.” By a 9-2 decision, the Appeals Court ruled it did. “Although very pleased with the ruling, the VFW isn’t quite ready to celebrate,” said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. “That’s because the VA can always appeal the ruling and Congress has yet to pass a Blue Water Navy bill. But, it is very encouraging to now have a court of law support Blue Water Navy veterans along with the court of public opinion. We need to get this done and reinforce to tens of thousands of veterans that our nation does have your back when you come home from war. The VFW now calls on VA to make Blue Water Navy veterans whole as soon as possible, and we stand ready to assist VA in doing so.”

MIA Update: This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced new identifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

- **U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Howard T. Lurcott** was a member of the 38th Bombardment Squadron, 30th Bombardment Group, stationed at Hawkins Field, Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. On Jan. 21, 1944, the B-24J bomber aircraft he was piloting crashed into Tarawa lagoon shortly after takeoff. Lurcott and the nine other servicemen aboard the aircraft were killed. Interment services are pending.
- **Navy Seaman 1st Class Frank A. Hryniewicz** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Hryniewicz. Interment services are pending.
- **Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Eugene K. Eberhardt** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941, when the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits and quickly capsized, resulting in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Eberhardt. Interment services are pending.
- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hadfield** a member of the 642nd Bombardment Squadron, 409th Bombardment Group, 9th Bombardment Division, 9th Air Force. On March 21, 1945, Hadfield was piloting an A-26B when his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and went missing during a combat mission from Couvron, France. Hadfield, and his two crewmen, Sgt. Vernon Hamilton and Sgt. John Kalausich, had been participating in the interdiction campaign to obstruct German troop movements in preparation for the Allied crossing of the Rhine River on March 23, 1945. Interment services are pending.
- **Army Pfc. Clifford M. Mills** was a member of the 319th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, which participated in Operation Market Garden, the invasion of the German-occupied Netherlands. On Sept. 18, 1944, Mills was reported missing in action in the vicinity of Wyler and Zyfflich, Germany. Interment services are pending.
- **Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Ted Hall** was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Hall. Interment services are pending.
- **Marine Corps Pvt. Waldean Black** was stationed aboard the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The battleship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Black. Interment services are pending.

~Submitted by Dr. Jim Tuorila, POW/MIA Chair



SCOUT OF THE YEAR

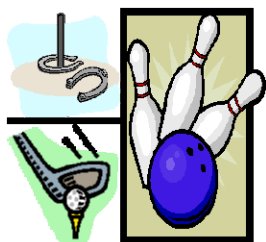
Scout of the year program Deadline for entries:

Entries were due

March 1st to the VFW Post!

One candidate per Post (including all entry criteria) must be submitted to Department by:

April 1st 2019



VETERANS
ACTIVITIES

Bowling..... 2019-2020 Hosted by Cannon Falls #4452

April 6-7th and 13-14th

(Alternate Dates April 27-28

IF needed due to CANCELLATION for Weather)

**Cribbage.....March 30, 2019 Hosted by Hastings Post
#1210 - Location: Hastings Veterans Home**

**Trap shooting...Watch for rescheduled 2019 Date!
-Hosted by Austin Post #1216**

NOTE: Contact the Veteran Activities Chairman in your District if you are interested in bidding any of the above events or would like more information on any of the events.

~Submitted by Dan Meyer, Veterans Activities Chair

*Be sure to include all of your Youth Activity participation on
BOTH the Youth Activity Report Form AND your monthly
Community Service Report Forms.*



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

HOCKEY: Hosted by Thief River Falls #2793

March 22-24, 2019

(2020 Hockey hosted by Thief River Falls)

BASEBALL: 2019 Hosted by Brainerd #1647